



California, in partnership with the federal government, has created a new, more collaborative approach to balance water supply reliability and the ecological health of Central Valley Rivers and the Bay-Delta Estuary – the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. As we close out the second year of implementation of the CALFED Record of Decision, it's important to acknowledge the hard work of the stakeholder communities and the state and federal agencies.

In particular, the new Public Advisory Committee, under the leadership of Chair Gary Hunt, played a pivotal role in building support for governance legislation and Proposition 50, which will provide accountability and balanced state funding for the Program while we continue to seek federal authorization from Congress.

While State and federal budget constraints will continue to provide implementation challenges, the CALFED agencies and stakeholders are committed to working together as they have in the past, and staying focused on making progress in all program areas. California deserves no less.



Mary D. Nichols
Secretary for Resources
The Resources Agency



In California and across the West, we face the common challenge of ever-growing demands for water and the complex and controversial challenges associated with increasing supplies. The CALFED Program represents a unique approach to reaching common objectives and taking actions needed to achieve balanced progress on these fronts. We support the concepts of CALFED, and our main task is to move forward in the implementation phase in a way that is true to the concepts of CALFED while recognizing the fiscal realities of the state and federal budgets.

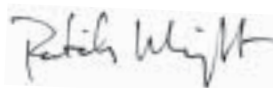
We greatly appreciate the advice of the public advisory group and the hard work of the House Water and Power Subcommittee Chairman Ken Calvert and Senator Dianne Feinstein on trying to get CALFED authorized. We will continue to work closely with them and with the people of California.



Bennett W. Raley
Assistant Secretary for Water and Science
Department of the Interior



Since its inception, many have questioned whether this grand experiment in collaborative decision-making could survive in the face of competing interests, agency cultures, and limited budgets. But as the accomplishments described in this second annual report demonstrate, the Program is not only surviving, but thriving. Hundreds of projects are now underway, conflicts over water project operations have been reduced, and our future is now secure through the passage of governance legislation and Proposition 50. Our challenge will be to build upon our accomplishments to date with a renewed commitment to the strengths of the Program: collaborative, locally-based solutions, science-based decision-making, extensive public and stakeholder involvement, strong interagency coordination at all levels, and balanced implementation.



Patrick Wright
Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program